

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00383 151641Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5828
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0383

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SF, WA
SUBJ: SAG REPLY TO EEC DEMARCHE ON NAMIBIA

REF: CAPE TOWN 0382

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THE SAG REPLY TO EEC DEMARCHE FURNISHED
TO US BY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR:

QUOTE: THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER
T THE NOTE HANDED TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BY
THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ON BEHALF OF THE NINE
COUNTRIES OF THE E.E.C. ON 7 FEBRUARY 1977.

THE NINE WILL HAVE NOTED FROM RECENT PRESS REPORTS
THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IN WINDHOEK HAS MADE
VERY CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN ITS EFFORTS TO BRING SOUTH
WEST AFRICA TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE. IT
WOULD SEEM TO THE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE
DIRECTION IN WHICH THE CONFERENCE IS MOVING INDICATES
THAT IT IS SUBSTANTIALLY IN ACCORD WITH MOST OF THE
REQUIREMENTS WHICH IN THE VIEW OF THE NINE ARE NECESSARY
T A SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF THE POLITICAL AND
CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY. ESPECIALLY IS
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00383 151641Z

THIS SO IN REGARD TO THE BASIC ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN
STRESSED IN THE UNITED NATIONS OVER THE YEARS, VIZ.,
INDEPENDENCE FOR THE TERRITORY IN THE NEAR FUTURE, INDE-
PENDENCE FOR THE TERRITORY AS WHOLE, AND A MAJORITY
GOVERNMENT.

IT WOULD ALSO SEEM TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT

THAT ALTHOUGH CERTAIN POINTS OF DIFFERENCE STILL REMAIN,
THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN IT
AND THE NINE IN REGARD TO MOST OF THE REQUIREMENTS SET
OUT BY THE NINE IN THE THIRD PARAGRAPH OF THEIR NOTE.
IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT MIGHT PERHAPS BE USEFUL TO DIS-
CUSS THE MATTER WITH THE NINE AND/OR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN AN EFFORT TO BRIDGE THE REMAINING
GAP. UNQUOTE. BOWDLER

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